BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS AMENDMENT

Figure 1

The diagram shows both essential parts of the self-updating address book: *the contact list area*, which keep the set of locators ~~and allows the user to sort and select from the address book. The sorting is accomplished in two steps: first, the address book obtains the information which it needs for sorting, for example, the last names of the persons; using the locators, the address book retrieves the names directly from the profiles of the concerned persons and stores the information in a temporary memory buffer. Second, the address book sorts the information in the buffer~~ and *the user's profile information area*, where the user enters and edits his/her own contact information, such as, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.

Figure 2

The selection from the address book is done by selecting the locator, for example, by touching the screen above the text, etc. Then, the address book uses the locator to locate the profile of the person, fetch the contact information, and display or otherwise retrieve it for the user. ~~The user may elect to display other information than the actual locator name or number. For example, the contact list may display the actual names of the persons in the contact list. In such a case, the address book keeps a memory buffer holding these names, and refreshes the memory by fetching the names from the actual profiles as often as the communication speed permits.~~

Figure 3

In a case the device that holds the user's profile is temporarily off-line, the Self-updating address book system may deploy a series of buffer zones that act as temporary data storage. ~~if the locator fails to reach the destinations device, the locator may opt to retrieve the contact information from the buffer zone which is the closest to the device being located. If the contact information is not fetched directly from the original device, the locator leaves an instruction in the buffer zone, directing the buffer manager to contact the device at a later time and refresh the content of the buffer zone. There may be several buffer zones between the requesting device and the device that holds the information, in order to assure that at least some type of contact information is made available to the requesting user. Also, the system may inform the requesting user of the fact that the locator has not reached the device and that a backup information is being furnished instead.~~

Figure 4

The contact information is accurate only providing that the concerned user keeps it up to date. The evaluation of accuracy is based on the date of last update and frequency of use. ~~The Self-updating Address Book deploys procedures that provide the user with an evaluation of accuracy of the information. The evaluation is based on the time that elapsed since the concerned user last updated his profile as well as on the frequency at which the concerned user accesses his own Self-updating Address Book to look up contact information.~~

REMARKS

The Robertson's claim (US 6,269,369 B1) is substantially different from my invention because Robertson's system relies on a central storage (referred to by Robertson as 'database' or 'server') where users send information and from where they retrieve information about others.

My invention describes devices that communicate directly with each other, without the use of any central server or database.

The Halstead's claim (US 6,363,392) is substantially different from my invention because Halstead methods describe functions applied on a 'database'. My invention does not use a database or server.

My invention is substantially different from both Robertson's and Halstead's claims and, furthermore, my invention is more different from either Robertson's and Halstead's, than the Robertson's method is different from the Halstead's method.

The Sudai's claim (US 5,950,200) is substantially different from my invention because Sudai's methods determine whether people have mutual attraction for each other. My invention is concerned with keeping people's addresses or phone numbers up to date.

The Paglin's claim (US 6,393,421) is substantially different from my invention because Paglin's method relies on exchange of two codes and relies on manager utility to update two databases. My invention provides for exchange of contact information among user devices without the need for two codes or manager utility.